



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF  
CIVIL RIGHTS

JUL 08 2015

**Return Receipt Requested**

Certified Mail# 7009 2820 0002 1759 1612

**In Reply Refer to:**

EPA File No. 10U-15-R8

North Dakota Mediation Service  
North Dakota Department of Agriculture  
600 E Boulevard Avenue  
Department 602  
Bismarck, North Dakota 58505-0020

**Re: Notification and Referral of Correspondence**

To whom it may concern:

This letter is to notify you that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Office of Civil Rights (OCR), received correspondence relating to a resident's experience with the North Dakota Department of Agriculture Mediation Service (NDDOA) on April 13, 2015.

The EPA does not have jurisdiction over complaints related to NDDOA's mediation services. It appears that this matter may fall within the jurisdiction of the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) OCR. For these reasons, the EPA/OCR has referred the matter to the USDA Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication for appropriate action. A copy of this referral letter is enclosed.

The USDA contact is Carl-Martin Ruiz, and his contact information is USDA/OASCR, 541 Reporter's Building, Mail Stop 9410, 300 7<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20250. For information on the discrimination complaint process, contact the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Information Research Service, at (202) 260-1026 or (866) 632-9992 (toll free) or send an email to the Office of Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights at [CR-INFO@ascr.usda.gov](mailto:CR-INFO@ascr.usda.gov).

If you have any questions, please contact William Yon at (202) 564-5617, [yon.william@epa.gov](mailto:yon.william@epa.gov) or via mail at U.S. EPA, Office of Civil Rights (Mail Code 1201A), 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C., 20460.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'V. Golightly-Howell', followed by a small 'for' in cursive.

Velveta Golightly-Howell  
Director, EPA Office of Civil Rights

cc: Elise Packard  
Associate General Counsel  
Civil Rights & Finance Law Office, EPA  
(MC 2399A)

Howard Cantor  
Deputy Civil Rights Official  
U.S. EPA Region VIII  
1595 Wynkoop Street  
Denver, Colorado 80202-1129  
(MC 8RA)